

■ ■ ■ **Proposed Cut Scores for High School:**
ACT English Language Arts and Mathematics
Presentation to the Nevada State Board of Education
April 26, 2018



ACT in Nevada

- 34,000 Nevada 11th graders take the ACT.
 - Authorized by NRS 390.610.
 - Offered free of charge to Nevada students.
 - The ACT is not a graduation requirement.
- ACT is a national college entrance test.
 - Students use their scores to apply to college.
 - NSHE members use ACT scores for placement decisions.

ACT Structure

Test Structure

- 215 multiple-choice questions in four subjects; *plus*
- One 30-minute writing test.

Scores

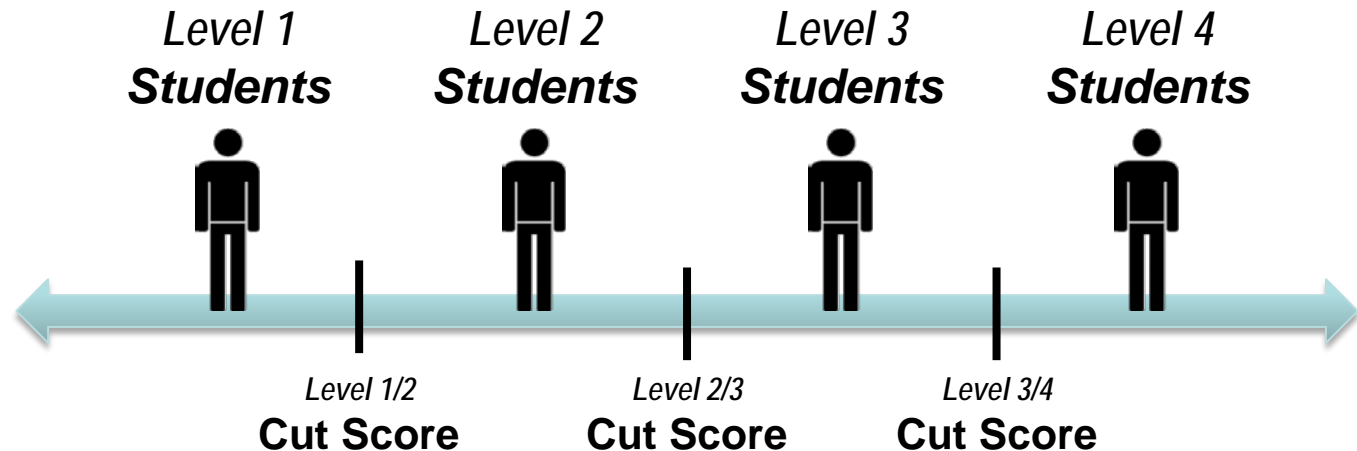
- Students receive scores for:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Reading
 - Science
 - Writing
 - English Language Arts
(*combination of English, reading, and writing*)

Federal Reporting

- The Board has authorized an additional use of the ACT: federal reporting in high school.
 - This helps streamline the state testing program.
- Use of the ACT for federal reporting does not diminish the other uses of the test.
 - Pupils can still use their ACT scores for college.
 - Colleges can still use ACT scores for placement.

Performance Levels

- For federal reporting purposes, *cut scores* for ELA and math must be established that divide students into *performance levels*.



Standard Setting

Methodology

- A *briefing book* standard setting process, where policy experts convened to examine possible cut scores and make recommendations.
- By design, a data-focused method, allowing the group to consider the ACT's predictive capabilities.

Committee

- Seven Nevada stakeholders and educators:
 - State Board members (2)
 - Academic Standards Council member
 - NSHE representative
 - District representative
 - Mathematics educator
 - ELA educator

Performance Level Descriptors

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Student demonstrates minimal understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge and skills associated with college and career readiness.	Student demonstrates partial understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge and skills associated with college and career readiness.	Student demonstrates adequate understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge and skills associated with college and career readiness.	Student demonstrates advanced understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge and skills associated with college and career readiness.
Student needs substantial support to meet the <i>Nevada</i> college and career readiness standard.	Student needs additional support to meet the <i>Nevada</i> college and career readiness standard.	Student meets the <i>Nevada</i> college and career readiness standard.	Student exceeds the <i>Nevada</i> college and career readiness standard.

College & Career Readiness

- The ACT measures academic *college readiness*.
 - College readiness is a level of *academic* readiness for college.
 - ACT predicts the likelihood of success in the first year of college.
- *Career readiness* is less well-defined.
 - It may include a variety of academic and *soft skills* needed to enter the workforce.
 - ACT may measure the *academic* component of career readiness.

Data-Intensive Standard Setting

Data Considered

- ACT linking studies with college courses
- ACT college readiness benchmarks
- Nevada performance on the 2017 ACT
- Nevada performance on the 2017 SBAC and End-of-Course tests

ACT Benchmarks

- The panel considered ACT's college readiness benchmarks:
 - English (18)
 - **Mathematics (22)**
 - Reading (22)
 - Science (23)
 - **English Language Arts (20)**
(combination of English, reading, and writing)

Students meeting these benchmarks have a 50% chance of earning a “B” or higher in specific credit-bearing college courses.*

Proficiency

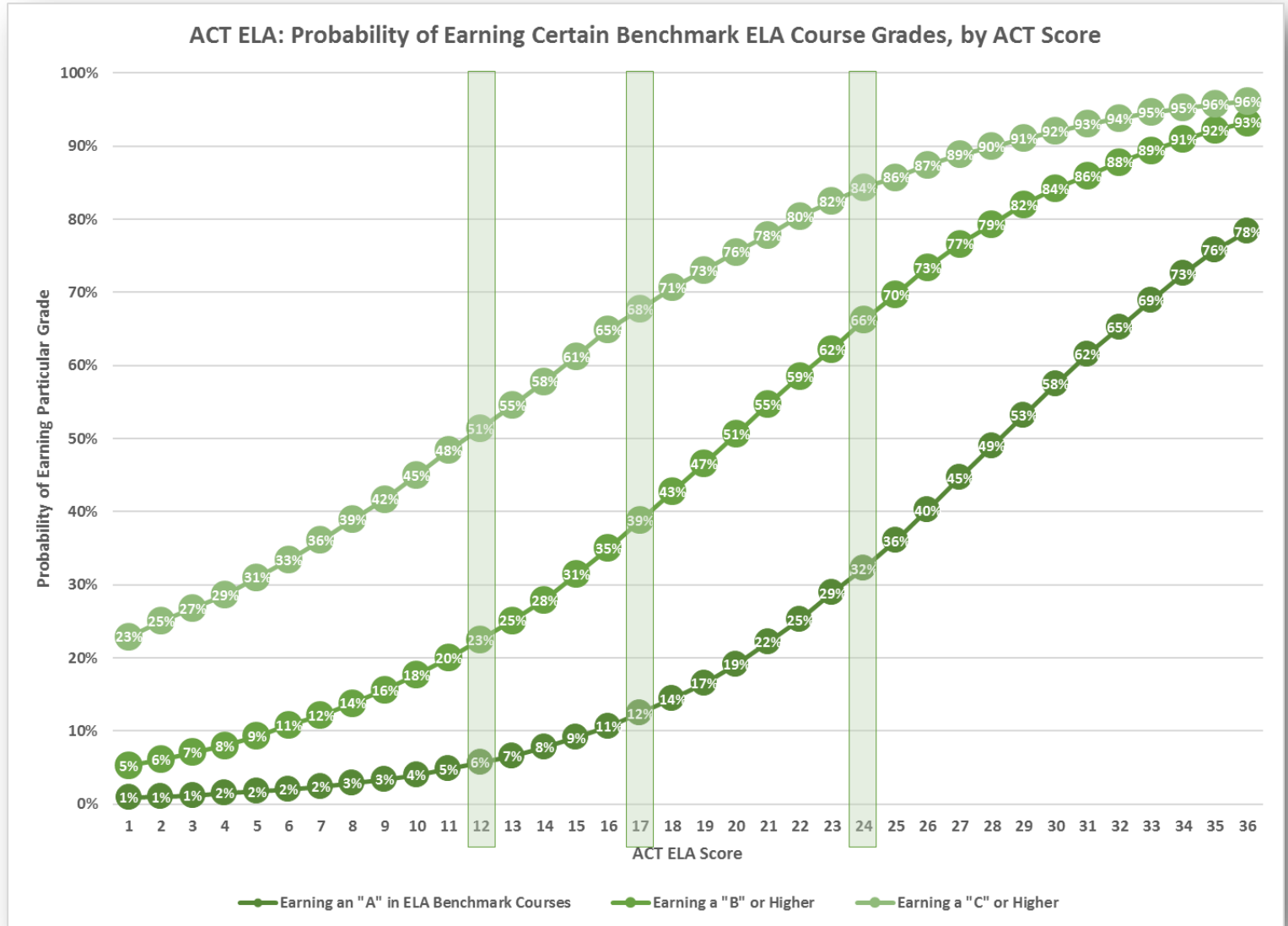
- The committee recommended that *Level/ 3* be considered “Proficient.”
- The committee considered the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.
 - The committee acknowledged that the ACT Benchmarks were based on academic college readiness, and that “proficiency” should be based on college and career readiness.
 - The committee looked at the performance of Nevada students on the ACT and other tests.
- The committee acknowledged that the cut scores do *not* affect students’ underlying ACT scores or the way NSHE Institutions use ACT scores.

Committee Recommendations

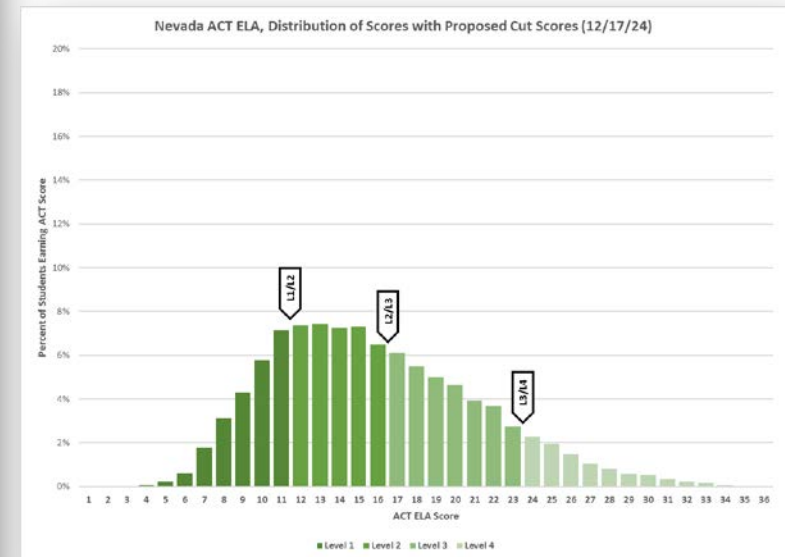
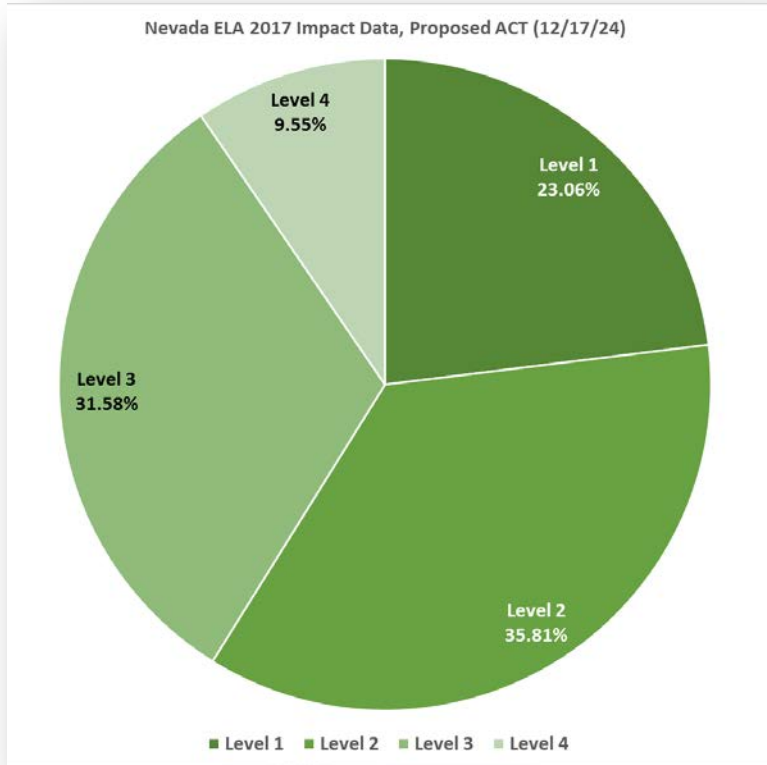
- **Level 2:** Students should have approximately a 50% chance of earning a “C” or higher in a credit-bearing college course*.
- **Level 3:** Students should have approximately a 67% chance of earning a “C” or higher in a credit-bearing college course.
- **Level 4:** Students should have approximately a 67% chance of earning a “B” or higher in a credit-bearing college course.

Proposed ACT Cut Scores

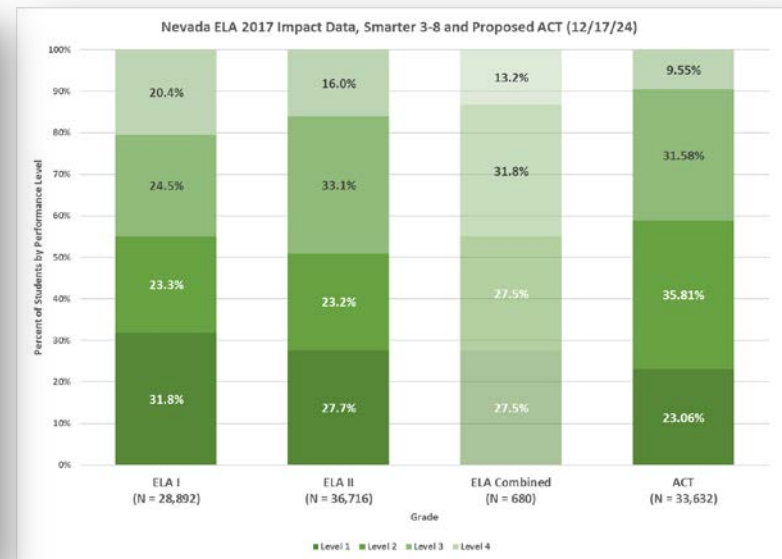
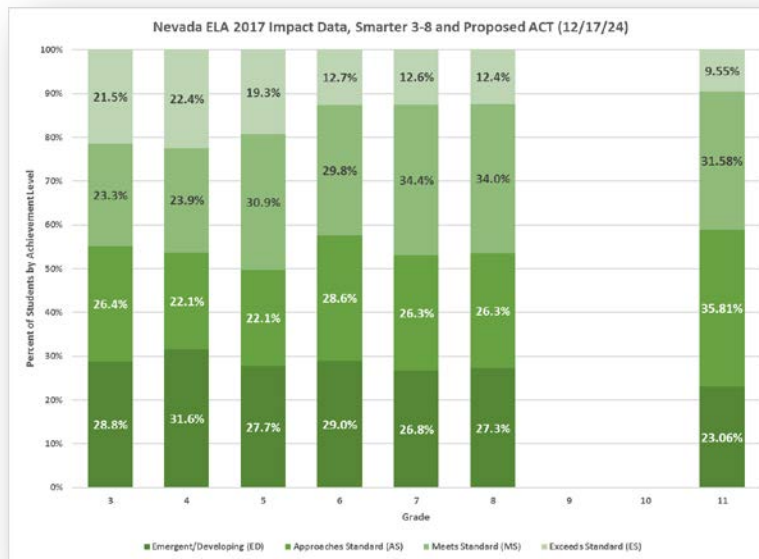
ELA College Grade Probabilities



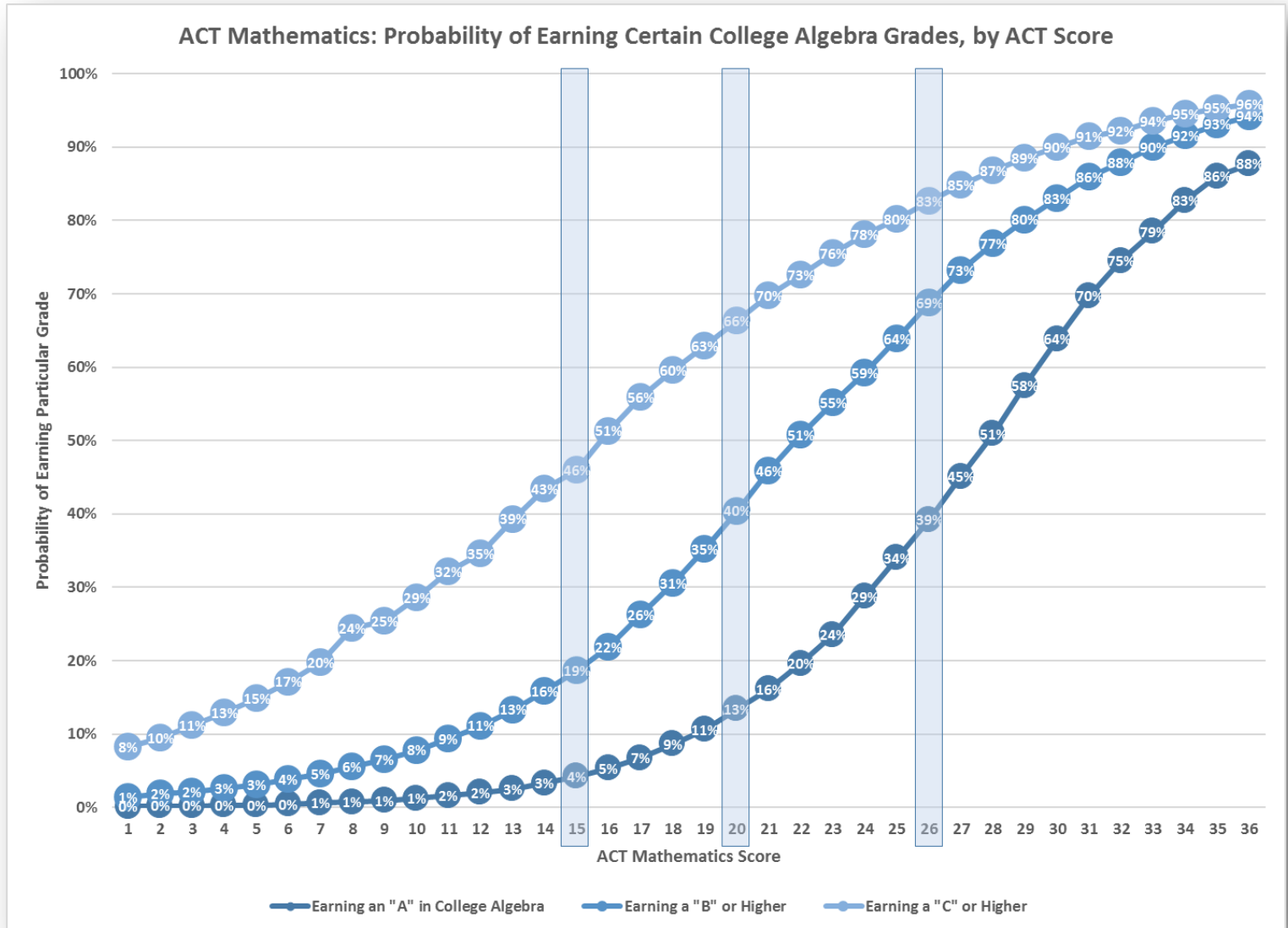
ELA Score Distribution 2017



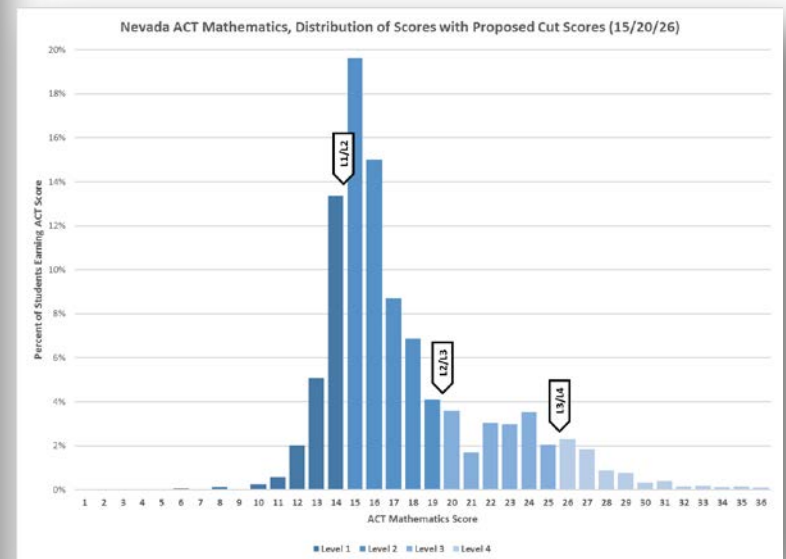
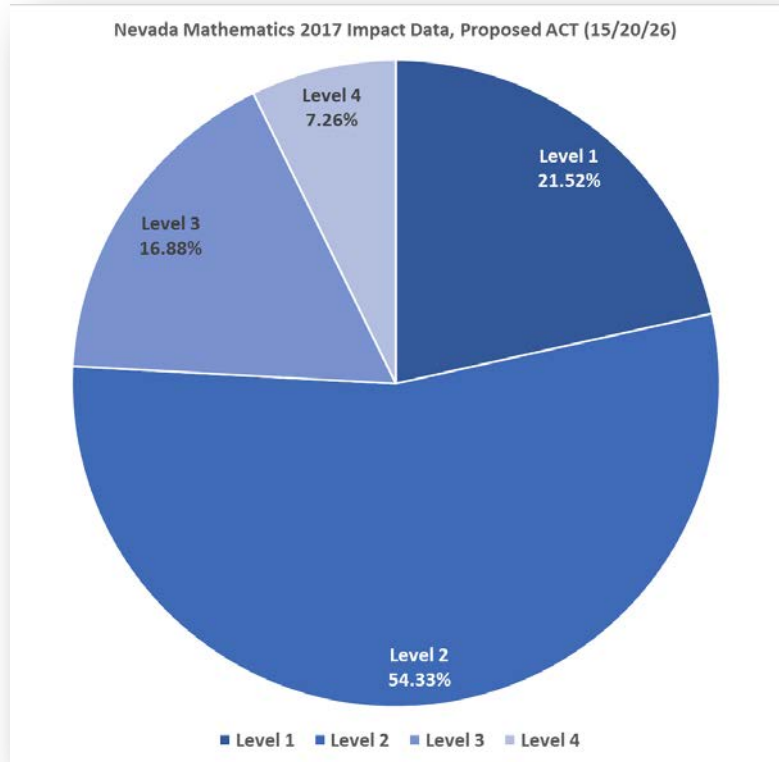
ELA ACT vs. 3-8 and EOC



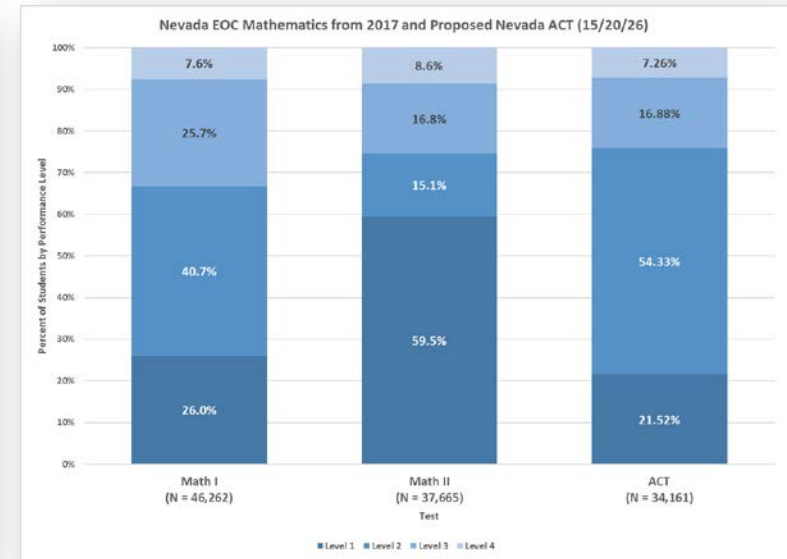
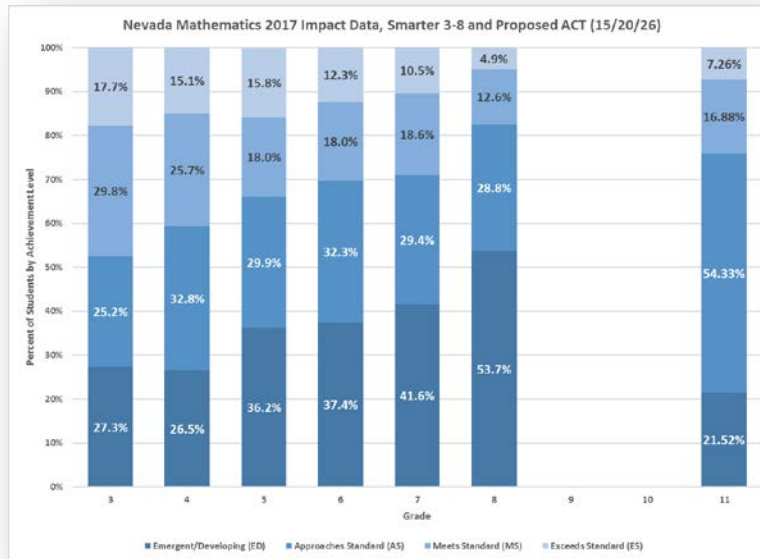
Math College Grade Probabilities



Math 2017 Nevada Impact



Math ACT vs. 3-8 and EOC



Invitation for Possible Board Action to Approve Cut Scores for:

- (1) ACT English Language Arts
- (2) ACT Mathematics

Recommendations for ACT

Test	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
ELA	2–11	12–16	17–23	24–36
Math	1–14	15–19	20–25	26–36
	Non-Proficient	Non-Proficient	Proficient	Proficient

Proposed Motion: Move to adopt the cut scores and levels as recommended by the Standard Setting Committee and approved by the Academic Standards Council with Levels 3 and 4 being proficient.